

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07730 081246Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /112 W
-----129394 090051Z /14

R 080642Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8551
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7730

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PEPR PK CH OTRA
SUBJ: ASGHAR KHAN VISITS CHINA

REF: ISLAMABAD 6057

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. PRESS REPORTS THAT RETIRED AIR MARSHAL ASGHAR KHAN, PRESIDENT OF THE TEHRIK-I-ISTIQLAL PARTY, DEPARTED RAWALPINDI AUGUST 6 FOR A TWO WEEK VISIT TO CHINA. ASGHAR IS BEING ACCOMPANIED ON THE TRIP BY TEHRIK SENIOR VP MALIK WAZIR ALI AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND FORMER TEHRIK SEC GEN SYED WAJID RIZVI. URDU PRESS NOTES THAT ASGHAR IS SCHEDULED TO CALL ON CHAIRMAN HUA AND OTHER
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CHINESE LEADERS DURING HIS STAY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT ASGHAR HAS BEEN ANGLING FOR THIS TRIP FOR SOME TIME. THE RETIRED AIR CHIEF HAS BEEN QUICK TO NOTE THAT THE TRIP HAS NO OFFICIAL GOP SANCTION; AN ATTEMPT TO FORESTALL THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY WHICH SURROUNDED HIS

SEMI-OFFICIAL SOJOURNS TO IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA LAST YEAR, DURING WHICH HE WAS PUBLICLY BRANDED AS A "MESSENGER" OF THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION.

3. ASGHAR ALSO ENJOYS A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE CHINESE. HE WAS THE ONLY POLITICIAN INVITED TO THE CEREMONIES AT THE OPENING OF THE KARAKORAM HIGHWAY (REFTEL), AND HE HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN A FOUNT OF PRO-PEKING STATEMENTS.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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